

RELEVANCE

USUHS, in providing a cadre of career physicians, has developed curricula to enable its students (medical, advanced practice nursing, graduate, and continuing education) to prepare thoroughly to deal with the medical aspects of chemical, biological, and radiological terrorism and has developed exportable packages for distance learning in those arenas as well as in disaster medicine in the broadest sense. – J. Edward Hill, M.D.,

Chair-Elect, American Medical Association Board of Trustees, Testimony before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, November 14, 2001.



Our medical professionals must be ready and able to effectively respond to fallout from weapons of mass destruction... An article in the Association of American Medical Colleges Reporter, in December 1998, quotes an issue of Military Medicine that says, "Even military physicians, who should be more prepared than civilian doctors, aren't sure about their capability of handling such a situation." The June 1998 issue of Military Medicine reported that only 19 percent of military physicians were confident about providing care in an NBC situation. The majority of those confident few, or 53 percent, were USUHS graduates.... I think it is extremely important that we disseminate that expertise... – The Honorable Stephen E. Buyer, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Hearings held on November 14, 2001.

The Department takes great pride in the fact that the USUHS graduates have become the backbone for our Military Health System. The training they receive in combat and peacetime medicine is essential to providing superior force health protection, and improving the quality of life for our service members, retirees, and families. All of us in the Office of the Secretary of Defense place great emphasis on the retention of quality physicians in the military. The USUHS ensures those goals are met. I look forward to continued excellence from the University. – The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, The Secretary of Defense, Correspondence to the USU Board of Regents, March 22, 2001.

Your outstanding performance was recently recognized by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), in the report granting continuing accreditation for an impressive eight additional years. I am particularly gratified by the following statement: "This program (the Graduate School of Nursing) provides an outstanding model for preparing advanced practice nurses for military service and care of patients in crisis and disaster situations. This program is on the cutting edge of effectively incorporating advanced technology into the curriculum and instruction process to produce a highly competent practitioner. This program can serve as a model to advance nursing education, practice, and scholarship as nursing moves into care of the global community." This is a truly outstanding review of the school, which reflects great credit upon your entire staff and our Military Health System. – The Honorable William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Correspondence to USU Reference the NLNAC Notice of Maximum Accreditation, January 24, 2002.



Military physicians and military medicine planners and educators have long expected that foes of the United States would resort to the offensive use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Memories of World War I, when chlorine and phosgene gas were used as weapons, the knowledge that the world powers had weaponized chemical and biological agents such as anthrax, and vivid images of the use of chemical weapons in the Middle East made it mandatory for American practitioners of uniformed medicine to be educated, trained, and prepared to treat casualties of WMD. Therefore, since the arrival of its first class in 1976, USUHS has provided in-depth instruction for more than 3,100 USUHS School of Medicine graduates regarding the recognition, diagnosis, management and decontamination of persons exposed to WMD. To my knowledge, USUHS is the only school of medicine in the United States with WMD as a formal part of its curriculum. – Val G. Hemming, M.D., Dean and Professor, USUHS School of Medicine, Testimony before the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, November 14, 2001.



I truly wish there was a way all 535 (members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives) could visit USUHS so they would fully appreciate the national resource that sits in their back yard. The work you do has never been more important or relevant. While few use the words, we are a nation at war; a different kind of war than we have fought in the past, but a war nevertheless. We must win this war decisively.... we will continue to tell the USUHS story at every opportunity... you have our continuing support. – Kenneth A. Goss, Director Government Relations, The Air Force Association, Letter to USU, January 30, 2002.



USUHS provides an invaluable service to the Armed Forces and to America. Nowhere else will you find a similar quality of research and medical training with the specific goal of meeting the demands of military medicine.

– The Honorable F. Whitten Peters, Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, Letter to USU, January 20, 2001.

